

NOV 16 1954

The Honorable Arthur S. Flemming
Director
Office of Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

Office space in Washington, D. C., for the Central Intelligence Agency is located in more than thirty separate buildings, most of which are temporary structures. The security problems, inefficiency, and excessive costs inherent in this situation have long indicated the high desirability of providing space for the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington in one permanent building.

Construction of the recently approved highway bridge across the Potomac River with its approaches just west of Memorial Bridge will necessitate the destruction of a large portion of the buildings now occupied by this Agency. Additional buildings are scheduled for demolition when the Secretary of the Interior starts the proposed project to clear the park area of temporary structures. I, therefore, consider it essential that plans be made without delay for the construction of permanent headquarters facilities for the Central Intelligence Agency in the Washington area.

I am cognizant of the fact that current "dispersion standards" for new construction of Government buildings require such buildings to be located ten or more miles from the perimeter of an urban target unless the nature of the activity for which the facility is to be used will not permit the use of a dispersed location. However, after careful consideration I have concluded that the Central Intelligence Agency could not effectively accomplish its mission from such a dispersed location. It is essential that the Director be immediately available to the Pres-

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ident and the National Security Council. There are also an estimated fifty to one hundred of CIA's senior staff who must be in close, daily contact with personnel of other agencies, particularly the Departments of State and Defense, and who must also be immediately available to the Director, as well as to those components of the Agency under their supervision and upon which they are dependent for support. In my judgment the necessity for such close and expeditious coordination within the Central Intelligence Agency and the Intelligence Community dictates that the entire Agency be at one location not more than a few miles distant from the White House.

The General Services Administration has suggested, and we are currently considering, several federally owned properties at distances varying from five to ten miles from the White House which appear to be suitable for the construction of a headquarters building to meet our needs. In order that we may proceed with the final selection of a site and request the formal approval of the President and the Congress for this construction, your concurrence is requested in an exception to current "dispersion standards" for a proposed new headquarters building for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely yours,

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

DD/A:LKW:laq
Distribution:
Orig & 1 / Addressee
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CONCUR:

L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Administration)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. JULLES

I have amended the attached letter which you signed previously in accordance with your suggestion.

From the White House the [redacted] site is 5-1/4 miles; the Langley property is 8 miles; the Suitland property is 8 miles; the Public Health property in Bethesda is 9 miles; and the Beltsville and Hybla Valley properties are each 12 miles, but I do not believe that we should consider them seriously.

Via the grapevine I understand that General Paul, who handles emergency planning for Arthur Flemming, may not be too receptive to this excep-

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

tion. For this reason I would suggest that you either hand this letter to Mr. Flemming or authorize me to handcarry it to him so that it will not be routed to General Paul first, which might be the case if we sent it through the mail.

[redacted]
L. K. White

16 Nov 54
(DATE)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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 CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDATION FILE

Remarks: NOTE: Colonel White handcarried Orig
& 1 to addressee on 18 November.

LAQ

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